

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 432

Creating a select committee to investigate the awarding and carrying out of contracts to rebuild communities devastated by Hurricane Katrina.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 8, 2005

Mr. LEACH submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules

RESOLUTION

Creating a select committee to investigate the awarding and carrying out of contracts to rebuild communities devastated by Hurricane Katrina.

1 *Resolved*, That, until otherwise provided by law, there
2 is hereby created a select committee to investigate the
3 awarding and carrying out of contracts to rebuild commu-
4 nities devastated by Hurricane Katrina (hereinafter re-
5 ferred to as the “select committee”).

6 MEMBERSHIP AND FUNCTIONS

7 SEC. 2. The select committee is to be composed of
8 15 Members of the House, to be appointed by the Speaker
9 (of whom 7 shall be appointed upon the recommendation
10 of the minority leader), one of whom shall be designated

1 as chairman from the majority party and one of whom
2 shall be designated ranking member from the minority
3 party. Any vacancy occurring in the membership of the
4 select committee shall be filled in the same manner in
5 which the original appointment was made. The select com-
6 mittee shall conduct an ongoing study and investigation
7 of the awarding and carrying out of contracts by the Gov-
8 ernment to rebuild communities devastated by Hurricane
9 Katrina and make such recommendations to the House
10 as the select committee deems appropriate regarding the
11 following matters—

12 (1) bidding, contracting, and auditing stand-
13 ards in the issuance of Government contracts;

14 (2) oversight procedures;

15 (3) forms of payment and safeguards against
16 money laundering;

17 (4) accountability of contractors and Govern-
18 ment officials involved in procurement;

19 (5) penalties for violations of law and abuses in
20 the awarding and carrying out of Government con-
21 tracts;

22 (6) subcontracting under large, comprehensive
23 contracts;

24 (7) inclusion and utilization of small businesses,
25 through subcontracts or otherwise; and

1 (8) such other matters as the select committee
2 deems appropriate.

3 RULES AND PROCEDURE

4 SEC. 3. (a) QUORUM.—One-third of the members of
5 the select committee shall constitute a quorum for the
6 transaction of business except for the reporting of the re-
7 sults of its study and investigation (with its recommenda-
8 tions) or the authorization of subpoenas, which shall re-
9 quire a majority of the committee to be actually present,
10 except that the select committee may designate a lesser
11 number, but not less than two, as a quorum for the pur-
12 pose of holding hearings to take testimony and receive evi-
13 dence.

14 (b) POWERS.—For the purpose of carrying out this
15 resolution, the select committee may sit and act during
16 the present Congress at any time and place within the
17 United States or elsewhere, whether the House is in ses-
18 sion, has recessed, or has adjourned and hold such hear-
19 ings as it considers necessary and to require, by subpoena
20 or otherwise, the attendance and testimony of such wit-
21 nesses, the furnishing of information by interrogatory, and
22 the production of such books, records, correspondence,
23 memoranda, papers, documents, and other things and in-
24 formation of any kind as it deems necessary, including
25 classified materials.

1 (c) ISSUANCE OF SUBPOENAS.—A subpoena may be
2 authorized and issued by the select committee in the con-
3 duct of any investigation or series of investigations or ac-
4 tivities, only when authorized by a majority of the mem-
5 bers voting, a majority being present. Authorized sub-
6 poenas shall be signed by the chairman or by any member
7 designated by the select committee, and may be served by
8 any person designated by the chairman or such member.
9 Subpoenas shall be issued under the seal of the House
10 and attested by the Clerk. The select committee may re-
11 quest investigations, reports, and other assistance from
12 any agency of the executive, legislative, and judicial
13 branches of the Government.

14 (d) MEETINGS.—The chairman, or in his absence a
15 member designated by the chairman, shall preside at all
16 meetings and hearings of the select committee. All meet-
17 ings and hearings of the select committee shall be con-
18 ducted in open session, unless a majority of members of
19 the select committee voting, there being in attendance the
20 requisite number required for the purpose of hearings to
21 take testimony, vote to close a meeting or hearing.

22 (e) APPLICABILITIES OF RULES OF THE HOUSE.—
23 The Rules of the House of Representatives applicable to
24 standing committees shall govern the select committee
25 where not inconsistent with this resolution.

1 (f) WRITTEN COMMITTEE RULES.—The select com-
2 mittee shall adopt additional written rules, which shall be
3 public, to govern its procedures, which shall not be incon-
4 sistent with this resolution or the Rules of the House of
5 Representatives.

6 ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

7 SEC. 4. (a) APPOINTMENT OF STAFF.—The select
8 committee staff shall be appointed, and may be removed,
9 by the chairman and shall work under the general super-
10 vision and direction of the chairman.

11 (b) POWERS OF RANKING MINORITY MEMBER.—All
12 staff provided to the minority party members of the select
13 committee shall be appointed, and may be removed, by the
14 ranking minority member of the committee, and shall
15 work under the general supervision and direction of such
16 member.

17 (c) COMPENSATION.—The chairman shall fix the
18 compensation of all staff of the select committee, after
19 consultation with the ranking minority member regarding
20 any minority party staff, within the budget approved for
21 such purposes for the select committee.

22 (d) REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES.—The select
23 committee may reimburse the members of its staff for
24 travel, subsistence, and other necessary expenses incurred
25 by them in the performance of their functions for the se-
26 lect committee.

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